

# Commissioners in action

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by MARIAN MCMAHON

**LAKE COUNTY** - Lake County Commissioners Bob Aufuldish, Dan Troy and Ray Sines meet at 10 a.m. most Thursdays, with some meetings at 2 p.m. on Tuesdays, in the Commissioners' Chambers on the fourth floor of the Lake County Administration Building, 105 Main St., Painesville.

All meetings are open to the public. Requests to address the government board may be made at any board meeting or presented to the Commissioners' Office by calling Amy Elaszcz at (440) 350-2753.

There was a meeting Feb. 23. The next meetings will be Tuesday, Feb. 28 at 2 p.m. and Thursday, March 1 at 10 a.m.

At the Feb. 16 meeting, the following legislation was adopted:

## RESOLUTIONS: UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

- Resolution authorizing the assignment of an engineering agreement originally executed with the Floyd Browne Group to Environmental Design Group for the Hardy Road Waterline Project No. 323-W.

This was requested due to company restructuring with the contract to be completed by local Akron personnel.

- Resolution declaring the necessity of and approving plans, specifications and estimates of cost in the amount of \$21 million for Madison Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade and Expansion Project No. 289-S and advertising for bids for same with a bid opening date of March 28.

- Resolution revising the sewer wastewater treatment plant capacity fee for the Madison Wastewater Treatment Facility.

(See story: New users to pay for expansion of treatment plant.)

- Resolution reclassifying Lauren Schuler to the position of inspector I in the Lake County Department of

Utilities, effective Feb. 27.

- Resolution hiring Jason Ashman to the position of inspector I in the

Lake County Department of Utilities, effective Feb. 27.

- Resolution hiring William Babcock to the position of inspector I in the Lake County Department of Utilities, effective Feb. 27.

- Resolution awarding bid contracts to HD Waterworks & Supply, Ferguson

Waterworks and Victory Waterworks Supply for fittings, repair parts, service equipment and tools for the Lake County Department of Utilities.

- Resolution awarding a bid contract in the amount of \$294,000 to Cold

Harbor Building Co. for SR 174 & 84 Booster Station Upgrade (general and electrical) Project No. 326W for the Lake County Department of Utilities.

- Resolution certifying unpaid sewer and water sums to the Lake County Auditor.

The bids received ranged from \$294,000 to \$427,000.

A standby generator not in the bid accepted was included in the engineer's estimate of \$450,000.

## COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE

- Resolution authorizing the Board of Lake County Commissioners to enter into a federal equitable sharing agreement with the United States Department of Justice and the United States Department of the Treasury on behalf of the Lake County Sheriff's Office to receive federally forfeited property and/or funds.

## FINANCE DEPARTMENT

- Resolution approving payment of bills as listed on the commissioners' approval journal.

- Resolution approving purchase orders as listed on the commissioners' purchase order approval journal.

- Resolution increasing appropriations for various general and non general fund accounts.

## DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS: UTILITIES

"I recently found out that the city of Willowick has established a flat rate for their sewers. As you know, we do their billing for that," said LCDU Director Rick Martin.

He said his understanding was the flat rate did not replace the volume rate, but was an additional charge.

"Our records indicate the average customer pays about \$72.85 a quarter right now and that will go up to about \$95 with the addition of \$22 per quarter," Martin said.

Commissioner Dan Troy said it should be noted that, while the county invoices residents for Willowick's sewer charges for a fee, it does not set the rates for residents. The increase was set by the city. He believed Euclid, which has the plant which treats Willowick's sewage is charging more to pay for upgrades.

(In a public meeting notice on Euclid City's website, Mayor Bill Cervenik states, "While we share our facility with other cities and they pay a proportionate share of the cost of improvements, an increase in the sewer rate over the next several years is necessary to pay the cost of the mandatory improvements. To accomplish the improvement plan, the city will need to spend in excess of \$100 million over the next 15 years. What this means for a typical residential customer is an increase in your sewer bill of approximately \$10 a month. Your sewer charge is billed quarterly within your water bill. You should know that even with a rate increase, your cost will be considerably less than customers within communities serviced by the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District.")

The county does billing only of sewer charges for Wickliffe, Willowick, Eastlake, Willoughby, Lakeline and Timberlake.